

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) Method of welding a metal sheet and a metal tube, comprising welding an edge of a metal bridging patch to a metal tube, and spot welding a metal sheet to a major side of the bridging patch.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 including arc welding the bridging patch to the metal tube.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the bridging patch is drawn arc welded to the metal tube wherein a welding arc is established between the edge and the tube.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) Method of welding a metal sheet and a metal tube, comprising welding an edge of respective multiple metal bridging patches to a metal tube, and spot welding a metal sheet to the multiple bridging patches.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the metal tube has a tube wall thickness in the range of about 0.7mm to about 4mm.

8. (original) Method of welding a metal sheet and a metal tube, comprising welding a pair of legs of a metal bridging bracket member to the metal tube and spot welding the metal sheet to a web section of the bracket member connecting its legs.

9.(original) The method of claim 8 wherein the bracket member includes one or more protrusions on the web section before the metal sheet is welded, and the metal sheet is spot welded to the web section at each of the protrusions.

10.(previously presented) A welded sheet-to-tube structure, comprising a metal sheet spot welded to a major side of a metal bridging patch having an edge that is welded to an exterior surface of a metal tube.

11.(previously presented) The structure of claim 10 including an arc weld between the bridging patch and the metal tube.

12.(previously presented) A welded sheet-to-tube structure, comprising a metal sheet spot welded to multiple metal bridging patches each having an edge welded to an exterior surface of a metal tube.

13.(original) The structure of claim 10 wherein the metal tube has a wall thickness in the range of about 0.7mm to about 4mm.

14.(original) The structure of claim 10 wherein the metal sheet comprises a roof panel of a vehicle.

15.(previously presented) A welded sheet-to-tube structure, comprising a metal tube, a metal bracket member having a pair of legs whose ends are welded to the metal tube and a web section connecting the legs, and a metal sheet spot welded to the web section of the bracket member.

16.(canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein ends of the legs of the bracket member are drawn arc welded to the metal tube.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The structure of claim 15 wherein the metal sheet comprises a roof panel of a vehicle.

22. (currently amended) Method of welding a metal sheet and a metal tube, comprising welding a metal bridging patch to the metal tube wherein a welding arc is established between an edge of the bridging patch and the tube, and spot welding a metal sheet to a major side of the bridging patch.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 including drawn arc welding [[an]] the edge of the bridging patch to the metal tube.

24. (previously presented) A welded sheet-to-tube structure, comprising a metal sheet having a major side spot welded to multiple metal bridging patches that are welded to an exterior surface of a metal tube.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A welded sheet-to-tube structure, comprising a metal sheet spot welded to a metal bridging patch having an edge that is welded to an exterior surface of a metal tube wherein the metal sheet comprises a roof panel of a vehicle.